

From: Walter Schmidt
To: Attorney General John Ashcroft
Date: 1/27/02 4:16pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

January 26, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Fax: 202-307-1454 - 202-616-9937 -- Email: microsoft.atr@usdoj.gov
Subject: Microsoft Settlement.

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

Microsoft continues in its role as a leader in the Information Technology industry. They do this not by luck, but because they are the best at what they do. Microsoft has given us, the business user, the ability to do things we only dreamt of a decade ago. They have done this efficiently and effectively, while at the same time their products have developed a network of satisfied users.

It appears other companies are now trying to take advantage of Microsoft's current situation because they are unable to accomplish on their own what Microsoft has successfully done. To continue litigation, already agreed to by the Department of Justice, nine states and Microsoft, would prove to be a waste of time and money.

As an Information Technologies CPA, I continue to use Microsoft products as part of my day-to-day work routine. I do this after an ever continuing and exhaustive review of available products, and because I feel that they continue to be the best, the market has to offer.

The settlement currently under review is fair. Microsoft has agreed to terms that will allow other companies to be better equipped to compete. So far, the passage of time without litigation resolution has caused little harm. Nevertheless, this issue needs to be resolved before it does do serious harm to either Microsoft, the Information Technologies industry, or our country's economy. I would hope the Justice Department feels the same way, sees that the proffered settlement is indeed in the public interest, and submits its final report, recommending acceptance of the settlement.

Sincerely,

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